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THE SILVER BANSHEE™ HAS WON -- SUPERMAN IS DEAD!
...BUT NOT DEFEATED!
by JOHN BYRNE
with KEITH WILLIAMS
70989 30410

"THE MILK CHOCOLATE MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH-NOT IN YOUR HAND"®

THE GHOST OF SUPERMAN

story by JOHN BYRNE
art by JOHN BYRNE & KEITH WILLIAMS

coloring by TOM ZIUKO
lettering by JOHN COSTANZA
edited by MICHAEL CARLIN

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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ARE...YOU... ADDRESSING ME, LITTLE MAN?
NOBODY ELSE, SWEETCHEEKS.
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE CREEPY MAKE-UP? GOIN' TO A COSTUME PARTY?
NO...
UHUHRRGHLL...
MORE ON THE ORDER OF...
...A FUNERAL...
HE... HE'S DEAD!
SHE... SHE JUST... TOUCHED HIM...
AN' HE... HE DIED...!!!
2

ENGLE'S
USED BO

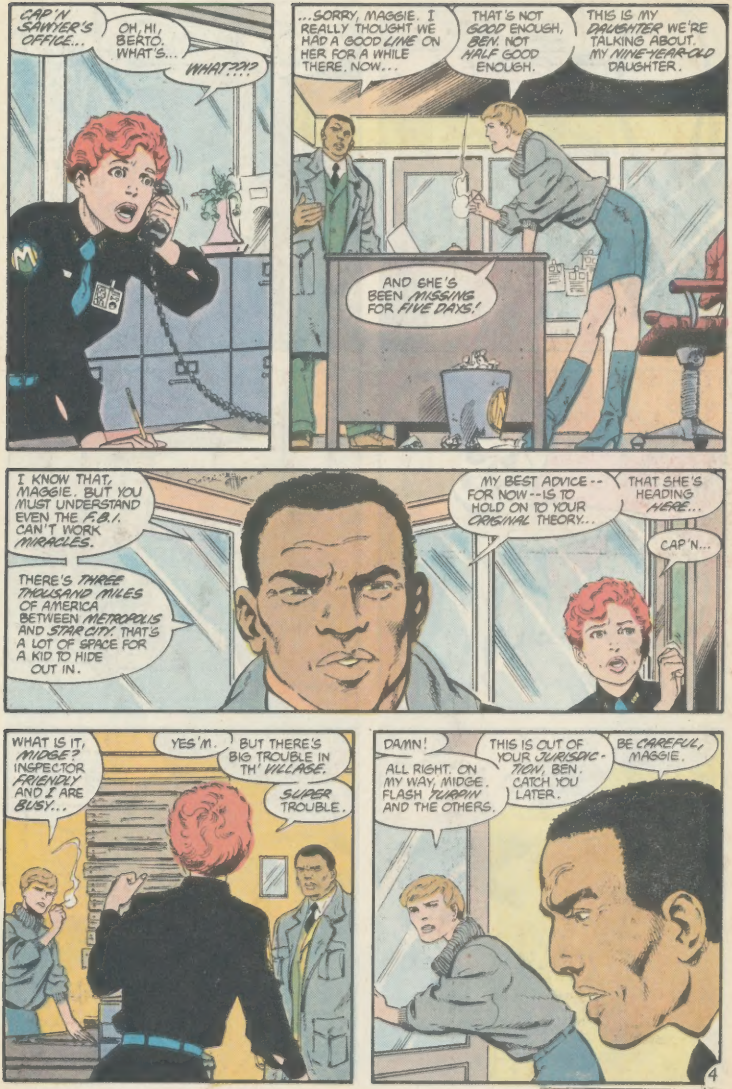
ER... AH...
M-MAY I HELP YOU, MISS?
NO...
BUT I BELIEVE...

I SHALL HELP MYSELF...

SHE KILLED HIM!
JUST BY TOUCHING HIM!!
BOOKS
THAT VOICE!
DID YOU HEAR IT??

IT...IT WAS JUST FLAT OUT THE WEIRDEST THING I EVER HEARD, OFFICER!
YEAH! LIKE... LIKE IF SOMEBODY WHO'D BEEN DEAD FOR A THOUSAND YEARS COULD TALK...
THAT'S WHAT THEY'D SOUND LIKE!!
UH-HUH...

AN' THEN SHE JUST WRECKED THIS PLACE?
HUH!
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT US A WEIRDY ONE HERE, BERT. BETTER GIVE A CALL TO...
3


CAP'N SAWYER'S OFFICE...
OH, HI, BERTO. WHAT'S...
WHAT?!?!
...SORRY, MAGGIE. I REALLY THOUGHT WE HAD A GOOD LINE ON HER FOR A WHILE THERE. NOW...
THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH, BEN. NOT HALF GOOD ENOUGH.
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. MY NINE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER.
AND SHE'S BEEN MISSING FOR FIVE DAYS!
I KNOW THAT, MAGGIE. BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND EVEN THE F.B.I. CAN'T WORK MIRACLES.
THERE'S THREE THOUSAND MILES OF AMERICA BETWEEN METROPOLIS AND STAR CITY. THAT'S A LOT OF SPACE FOR A KID TO HIDE OUT IN.
MY BEST ADVICE -- FOR NOW -- IS TO HOLD ON TO YOUR ORIGINAL THEORY...
THAT SHE'S HEADING HERE...
CAP'N...
WHAT IS IT, MIDGE? INSPECTOR FRIENDLY AND I ARE BUSY...
YES'M.
BUT THERE'S BIG TROUBLE IN TH' VILLAGE.
SUPER TROUBLE.
DAMN!
ALL RIGHT. ON MY WAY, MIDGE. FLASH, KYRAWN AND THE OTHERS.
THIS IS OUT OF YOUR JURISDICTION, BEN. CATCH YOU LATER.
BE CAREFUL, MAGGIE.
4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

Zittles:

Exzits:
Pimples so embarrassing you want to leave the party.

Blimple:
A pimple so big it feels like it covers your entire face.

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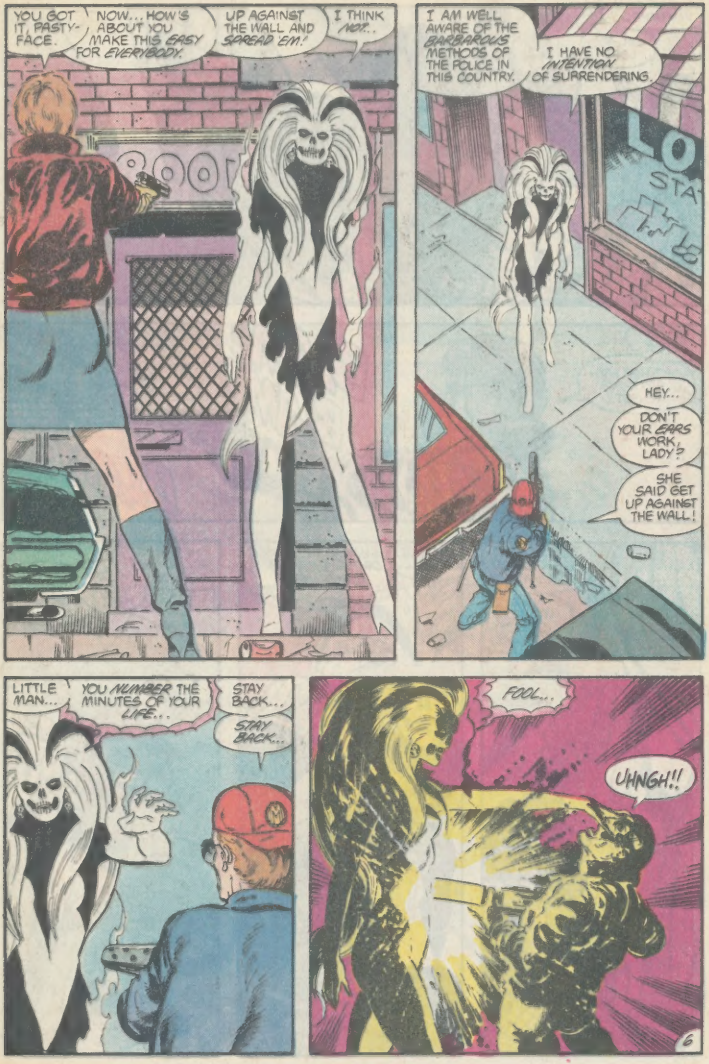
THERE'S A MESSAGE COMIN' IN, CAP'N.
SHE'S HIT ANOTHER BOOK STORE, WHOEVER SHE IS.
BOOK STORE! BOOK STORE!
WHAT'S THIS BROAD'S PROBLEM WITH BOOK STORES?
WHO KNOWS, MAGGIE?
MAYBE HER MOTHER WAS "SPOOKED" BY THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA.
VERY DROLL, TURPIN.
WELL... WHATEVER IT IS, WE SHOULD FIND OUT NOW...
METROPOLIS POLICE
THERE'S HER SECOND TARGET...
Ghostle's
BOOKS
FAN OUT, BOYS. AND DON'T GET TOO CLOSE.
REMEMBER, HER TOUCH IS LETHAL.
DON'T HAFTA TELL ME TWICE, SKIPPER.
I AIN'T GONNA BE LOOKIN' T'COZY UP...
Merlos
...T'THAT!!
THE POLICE...


YOU GOT IT, PASTY-FACE.
NOW... HOW'S ABOUT YOU MAKE THIS EASY FOR EVERYBODY.
UP AGAINST THE WALL AND SPREAD 'EM!
I THINK NOT...
I AM WELL AWARE OF THE BARBAROUS METHODS OF THE POLICE IN THIS COUNTRY.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SURRENDERING.
HEY...
DON'T YOUR EARS WORK, LADY?
SHE SAID GET UP AGAINST THE WALL!
LITTLE MAN...
YOU NUMBER THE MINUTES OF YOUR LIFE...
STAY BACK...
STAY BACK...
FOOL...
UHNGH!!
6

V-VINNIE...
OH, MY LORD!
STOP HER!!
HIT HER WITH EVERYTHING WE GOT!!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
DO YOU ALSO WISH TO DIE, LITTLE MAN?
YOUR WEAPON CANNOT HARM ME.
IT.. IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
OH, BUT IT IS...
SUCH IS THE POWER OF THE SILVER BANSHEE!
SHE'S GOIN' 'ROUND THAT CORNER!
STAY WITH HER!
DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF HER!
7

WE GOTTA SURROUND HER!
COME AT HER FROM ALL SIDES!
NO PROBLE'M CAP'N LEMME SPRINT 'ROUND IN FRONT OF HER...
CAREFUL, VERN...
?!?
YOU AGAIN...??
HOW VERY RESILIENT YOU MUST BE..
I MUST INCREASE MY POWER FOR YOU
?
YOU... YOU DO NOT DIE...??
YOU ARE A SUPERMAN!!
WELL, TO QUOTE FREEMEE HERMAN,
THAT'S MY NAME...
DON'T WEAR IT OUT!
SUPERMAN!!
8

KEEP AWAY, MAN OF STEEL. THIS MATTER DOES NOT CONCERN YOU
WRONG, LADY. REAL WRONG!
IF I HADN'T BEEN CHASING 'ROUND AN ALIEN DIMENSION I'D HAVE BEEN HERE EVEN SOONER
GLAD TO SEE YOU, SUPERMAN. BUT STAY BACK!
THIS DAME'S TOUCH IS LETHAL!
SO I SEE. BUT DON'T WORRY, MAGGIE.
WITH MY SUPER-STRENGTH I CAN MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T TOUCH ANYONE ELSE
YOU ARE ALSO A FOOL, SUPERMAN.
AS ALL MORTALS ARE FOOLS...
IT IS NOT MY TOUCH THAT KILLS...
Hhhh

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THE UNITED STATES OF ROCK
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SONIC DISRUPTORS
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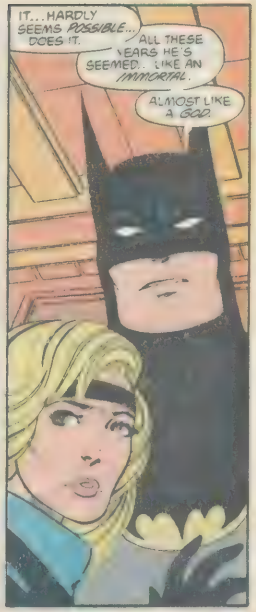
IT IS ME VOICE!

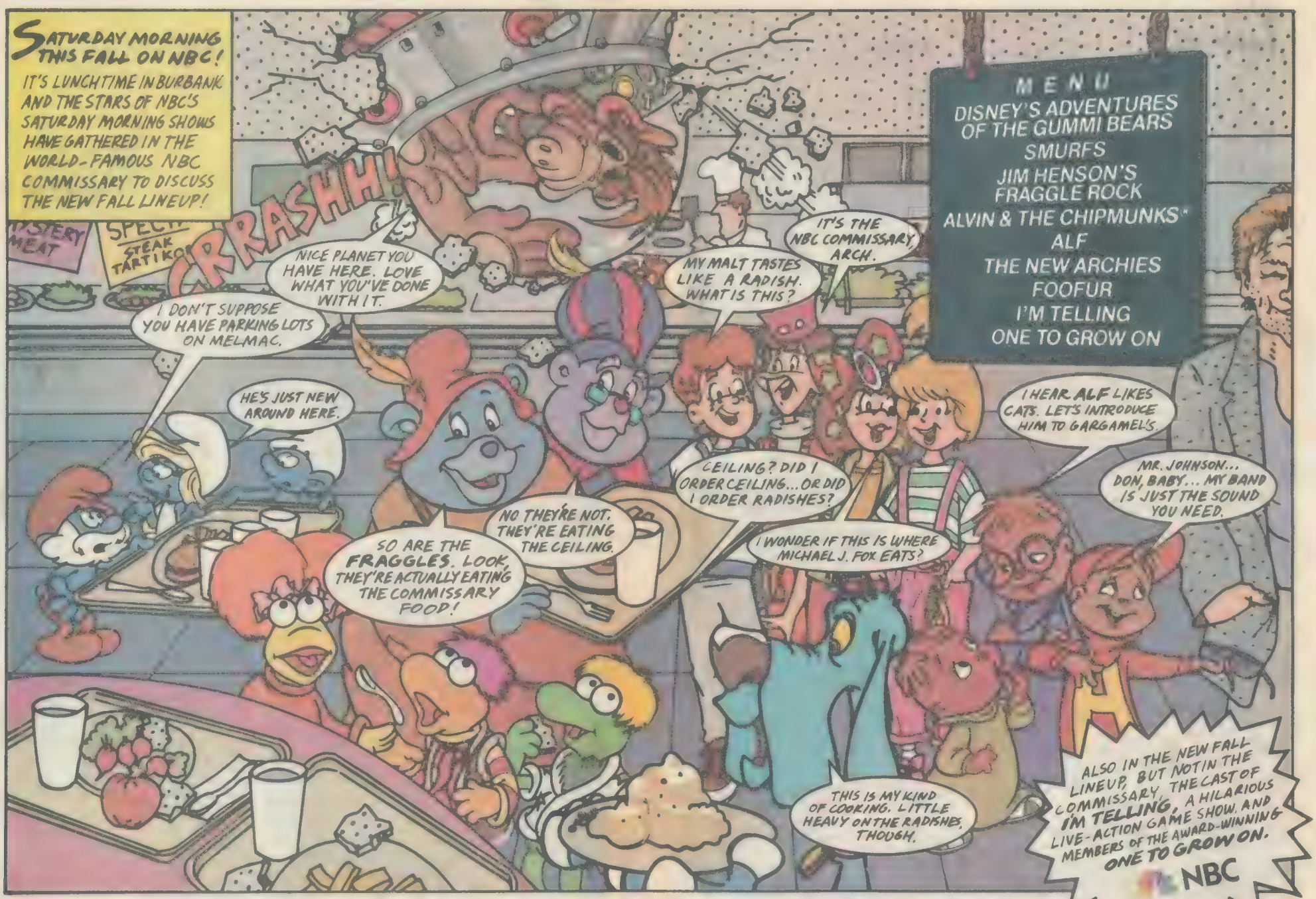
DRRRRNNN!
LOIS LANE
OH HI, MAGGIE
WHAT'S...
WHAT?!?
NO..
OHHH NO...
NO..
LOIS...
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!
WHAT'S WRONG?
P. PERRY..
IT'S..
IT'S SUPERMAN
HE..
HE'S...
HE'S BEEN...

... PRONOUNCED DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL TODAY AT 4:57 P.M.
WITH THE DETAILS, HERE'S WINDY CHENG IN METROPOLIS
I...
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT!


IT... HARDLY SEEMS POSSIBLE... DOES IT.
ALL THESE YEARS HE'S SEEMED... LIKE AN IMMORTAL.
ALMOST LIKE A GOD.

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, BATMAN.
CALL IN THE REST OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
PERHAPS.
CERTAINLY SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE...

MORE THAN THAT, BATMAN.
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!


SATURDAY MORNING THIS FALL ON NBC!
IT'S LUNCHTIME IN BURBANK AND THE STARS OF NBC'S SATURDAY MORNING SHOWS HAVE GATHERED IN THE WORLD-FAMOUS NBC COMMISSARY TO DISCUSS THE NEW FALL LINEUP!
MYSTERY MEAT
SPECIAL STEAK TARTIKOFF
CRRASHH!
NICE PLANET YOU HAVE HERE. LOVE WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH IT.
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE PARKING LOTS ON MELMAC.
HE'S JUST NEW AROUND HERE.
SO ARE THE FRAGGLES. LOOK, THEY'RE ACTUALLY EATING THE COMMISSARY FOOD!
NO THEY'RE NOT. THEY'RE EATING THE CEILING.
MY MALT TASTES LIKE A RADISH. WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S THE NBC COMMISSARY, ARCH.
CEILING? DID I ORDER CEILING... OR DID I ORDER RADISHES?
I WONDER IF THIS IS WHERE MICHAEL J. FOX EATS?
THIS IS MY KIND OF COOKING. LITTLE HEAVY ON THE RADISHES, THOUGH.
MENU
DISNEY'S ADVENTURES OF THE GUMMI BEARS
SMURFS
JIM HENSON'S FRAGGLE ROCK
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS*
ALF
THE NEW ARCHIES
FOOFUR
I'M TELLING
ONE TO GROW ON
I HEAR ALF LIKES CATS. LET'S INTRODUCE HIM TO GARGAMEL'S.
MR. JOHNSON... DON, BABY... MY BAND IS JUST THE SOUND YOU NEED.
ALSO IN THE NEW FALL LINEUP, BUT NOT IN THE COMMISSARY, THE CAST OF I'M TELLING, A HILARIOUS LIVE-ACTION GAME SHOW, AND MEMBERS OF THE AWARD-WINNING ONE TO GROW ON.
NBC

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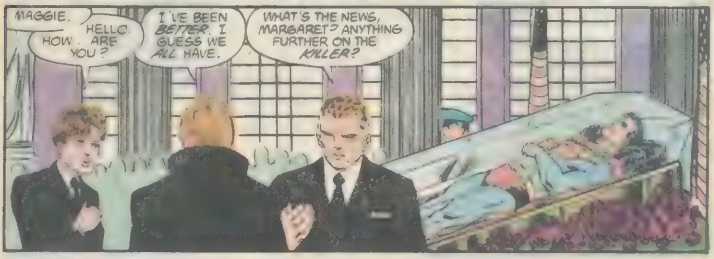
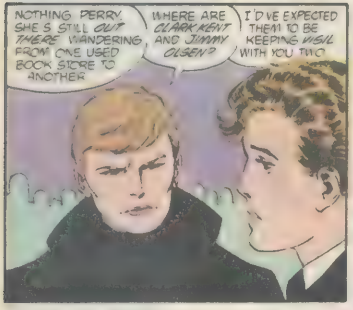
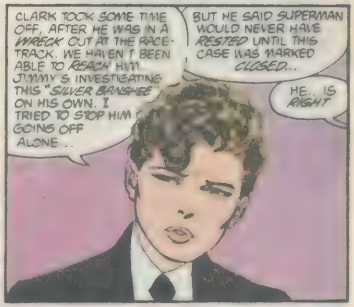
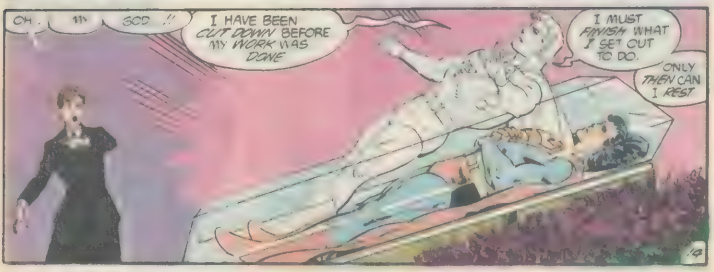
NOOOO!
NO!!
NO!!
NO!!
NO!!
KRASH!
WHAM!
SMASH!
WHAM!
NO!!
KRAK
KA-SH
NO!!
CRAK!
NO!!
SMASH!
POW!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
HE CAN'T BE DEAD
I WON'T HAVE IT
SUPERMAN WAS MEANT TO DIE BY MY HAND
MY HAND!!!
IT'S..
..NOT
..FAIR
13

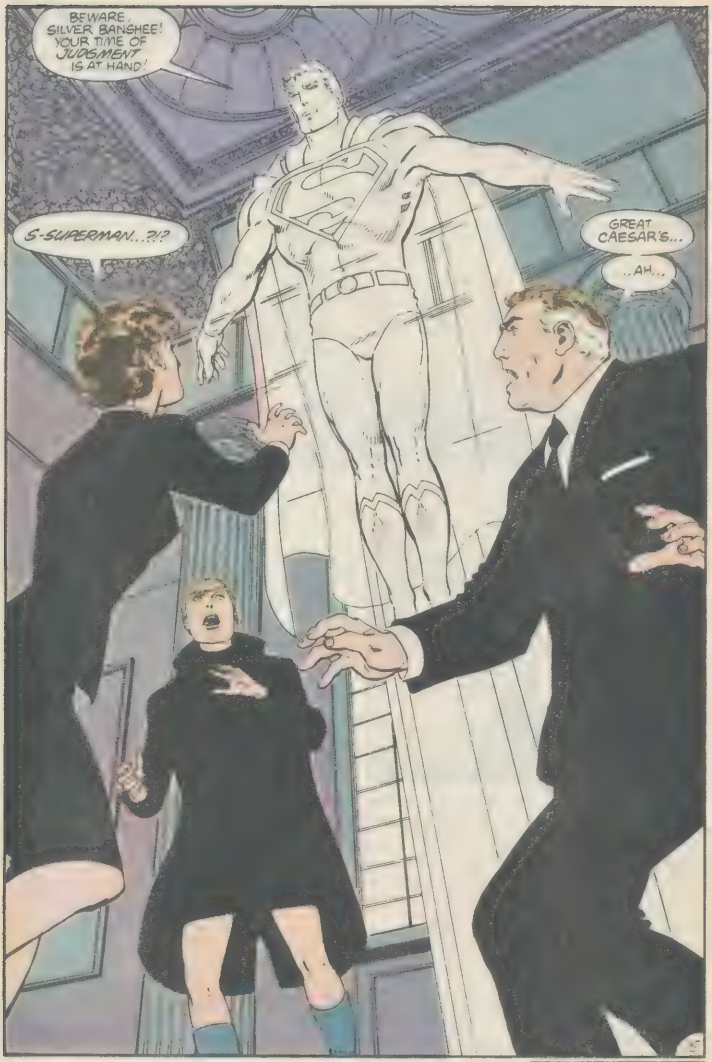
HELLO, LOIS. PERRY...


MAGGIE.
HELLO. HOW ARE YOU?
I'VE BEEN BETTER. I GUESS WE ALL HAVE.
WHAT'S THE NEWS, MARGARET? ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE KILLER?


NOTHING PERRY. SHE'S STILL OUT THERE WANDERING FROM ONE USED BOOK STORE TO ANOTHER
WHERE ARE CLARK KENT AND JIMMY OLSEN?
I'D'VE EXPECTED THEM TO BE KEEPING VIGIL WITH YOU TWO.


CLARK TOOK SOME TIME OFF, AFTER HE WAS IN A WRECK OUT AT THE RACE-TRACK. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH HIM. JIMMY'S INVESTIGATING THIS "SILVER BANSHEE" ON HIS OWN. I TRIED TO STOP HIM GOING OFF ALONE..
BUT HE SAID SUPERMAN WOULD NEVER HAVE RESTED UNTIL THIS CASE WAS MARKED CLOSED..
HE... IS RIGHT


OH... !!! GOD !!
I HAVE BEEN CUT DOWN BEFORE MY WORK WAS DONE
I MUST FINISH WHAT I SET OUT TO DO.
ONLY THEN CAN I REST



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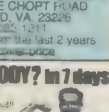

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CHECKLIST

WEEK ONE On Sale October 6 January Cover Date	WEEK TWO On Sale October 13 January Cover Date	WEEK THREE On Sale October 20 January Cover Date	WEEK FOUR On Sale October 27 January Cover Date
Millennium #1 Firestorm #67 Flash #8 Justice League Int. #9 Outsiders #27 Wonder Woman #12	**Millennium #2** Batman #415 Blue Beetle #20 Legion #42 Secret Origins #22 Superman #13 Young All-Stars #8	**Millennium #3** Adventures of Superman #436 Booster Gold #24 Green Lantern Corps #220 Infinity, Inc. #46	**Millennium #4** Teen Titans Spotlight #18 Action #596 Captain Atom #11 Detective #582 Suicide Squad #9 Spectre #10
WEEK FIVE On Sale November 3 February Cover Date	**WEEK SIX** On Sale November 10 February Cover Date	**WEEK SEVEN** On Sale November 17 February Cover Date	**WEEK EIGHT** On Sale November 24 February Cover Date
Millennium #5 Firestorm #68 Flash #9 Wonder Woman #13 Justice League Int. #10 Outsiders #28	**Millennium #6** Superman #14 Blue Beetle #21 Legion #43 Secret Origins #23 Young All Stars #9	**Millennium #7** Adventures of Superman #437 Booster Gold #25 Green Lantern Corps #221 Infinity, Inc. #47	**Millennium #8** Spectre #11 Teen Titans Spotlight #19

MILLENNIUM read it first every week. After that, read *ALL* the crossover titles!

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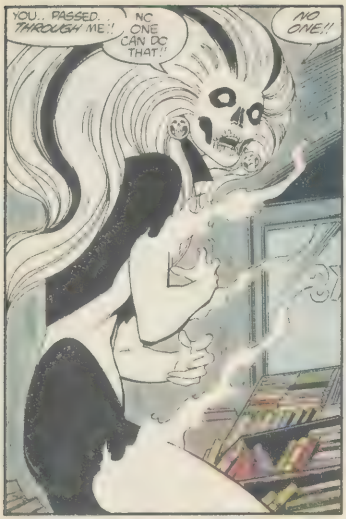
YAHHHH!!
IT IS NOT HERE!
IT IS NOT HERE!!
I'LL NEVER FIND IT NEVER, NEVER, NEVER!!
THAT'S SOME TANTRUM SHE'S THROWING!
WHAT TH' HECK CAN SHE BE SEARCHING FOR?
MAYBE IF I GET CLOSER
UH-OH
WHO...?
YOU ARE JIMMY OLSEN! THE ONE THE NEWSPAPERS CALL "SUPERMAN'S PAL..."
WELL, SUPERMAN IS NOT HERE TO SAVE YOU THIS TIME..
STOP!
WHAT..?!?
NO. IT CANNOT BE!!
IT IS POINTLESS TO DISPUTE THE OBVIOUS.
SURRENDER, SILVER BANSHEE. YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME.
16

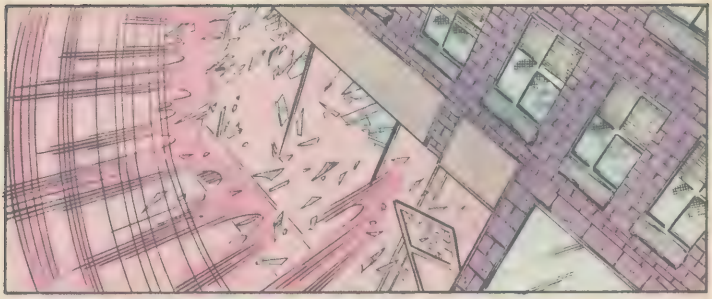
BUT I SHALL!!
I MUST!
I DO NOT KNOW HOW YOU HAVE MANAGED TO CHEAT DEATH, SUPERMAN
...BUT THE POWER OF THE SILVER BANSHEE IS NOT TO BE DENIED!!
UHNGH...
IT'S NO GOOD BANSHEE.
YOU... CAN HURT ME STILL, IT SEEMS...
BUT EVEN YOU DO NOT HAVE THE POWER TO KILL...
...A GHOST!!
AHHGH!!

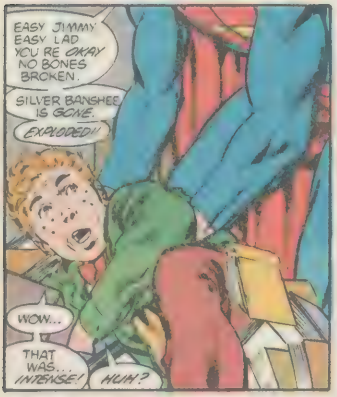

YOU.. PASSED. THROUGH ME!
NO ONE CAN DO THAT!!
NO ONE!!

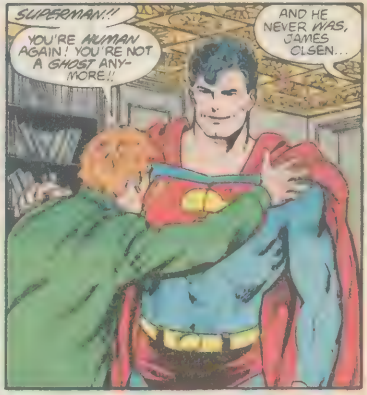
AGAIN YOU DISPUTE THE OBVIOUS, SILVER BANSHEE. HAVE YOU YET TO COMPREHEND?
BY SLAYING ME, YOU HAVE MADE ME MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER!
NO! NO!
I AM NOT BEATEN YET!
NOT UNTIL YOU STAND AGAINST THE FULL POWER OF THE BANSHEE'S WAIL!!

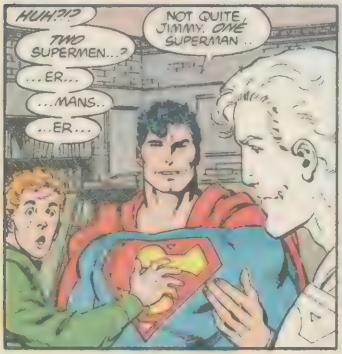
THAT...SCREAM...
IT'S DEAFENING!
SLICING INTO ME, LIKE KNIVES!
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HARMING ME...?
8

THIS, THEN, IS THE BEST YOU CAN DO, BANSHEE?
I REPEAT MY PREVIOUS SUGGESTION SURRENDER NOW WHILE YOU CAN.
NEVER!
NEVER!
NOT WHILE THERE'S STILL BREATH IN MY BODY
BREATH TO DO... THIS!!




EASY JIMMY EASY LAD YOU'RE OKAY NO BONES BROKEN.
SILVER BANSHEE IS GONE.
EXPLODED!
WOW...
THAT WAS... INTENSE!
HUH?


SUPERMAN!!
YOU'RE HUMAN AGAIN! YOU'RE NOT A GHOST ANY-MORE!!
AND HE NEVER WAS, JAMES OLSEN...


HUH?!?
TWO SUPERMEN...?
...ER...
...MANS..
...ER...
NOT QUITE, JIMMY. ONE SUPERMAN..

AND ONE VERY SPECIAL FRIEND...
J'ONN J'ONZZ..
THE MANHUNTER FROM MARS!!
20

...AND I DISCOVERED THE COMMON THREAD BETWEEN THOSE STORES:
THEY'D ALL RECEIVED BOOKS OUT OF A SHIPMENT AUCTIONED OFF LAST MONTH AT THE METROPOLIS BOOK FAIR--ALL BOOKS FROM A CONTAINER OF VOLUMES FROM THE LIBRARY OF CASTLE BROSH, IN IRELAND
SILVER BANSHEE, WHOEVER SHE WAS, MUST'VE BEEN AFTER ONE OF THOSE BOOKS!
"WHOEVER SHE WAS
I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER FIND OUT, NOW? SHE TERMINATED SO... ENTHUSIASTICALLY.
TOO TRUE, J'ONN. I ONLY HOPE IT WAS A PERMANENT TERMINATION. I DOUBT EVEN MY KRYPTONIAN PHYSIOGNOMY COULD SAVE ME FROM HER A SECOND TIME
BUT... BUT SUPERMAN, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAD TO PUT ALL OF US THROUGH HELL THINKING YOU WERE DEAD.
OR THE REASON FOR J'ONN JONZZ'S ELABORATE CHARADE!
I SHALL EXPLAIN, MISS LANE. WHEN I LEARNED SILVER BANSHEE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO KILL ONE OF THE POLICE OFFICERS, I USED MY TELEPATHIC POWER TO READ THE MINDS OF THE EYEWITNESSES. I REALIZED SHE HAD FAILED BECAUSE SHE HAD MISTAKEN THE OFFICER FOR A MAN SHE HAD ALREADY KILLED.
HER POWER SEEMED TO BE TIED TO SOME SORT OF VISUAL CUEING, SO I DEDUCED SHE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO KILL ME SO LONG AS I USED MY SHAPE-SHIFTING ABILITIES TO CONVINCE HER I WAS SUPERMAN.
AS TO ALLOWING YOU TO THINK I WAS REALLY DEAD, LOIS -- I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE. SILVER BANSHEE'S ATTACK THREW ME INTO A DEEP COMA. ALMOST SO SURPRISED AM I MYSELF!
IF J'ONN HADN'T USED HIS MENTAL POWERS TO JUMPSTART ME AS HE PASSED THROUGH ME, I'D PROBABLY STILL BE OUT COLD.
WELL... I GUESS THAT'S A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION...
AT LEAST IT'LL DO IF THAT'S ALL WE'RE GOING TO GET.
LOIS...
WRITE THIS UP IN DEPTH. THE TV BOYS HAVE BEATEN US TO THE STORY ON SUPERMAN'S RETURN...
...BUT AT LEAST WE CAN PUT "SO" TO SILVER BANSHEE!
TURN TO 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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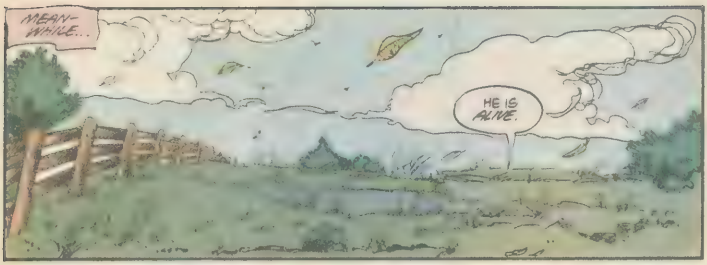

UNFORTUNATE.
I HAD HOPED HIS POTENTIAL INTERFERENCE HAD BEEN ELIMINATED.
NOW WE MUST PROCEED WITH THE PLAN OF THE MASTERS AS INTENDED.
EVERYTHING IS IN READINESS. IT REMAINS ONLY TO BEGIN THE PENULTIMATE PHASE...
AND A LIFETIME OF PREPARATION WILL SEE FINAL FRUITION!

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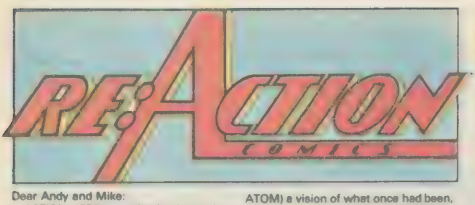
ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS



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L 2942

Dear Andy and Mike:

ACTION #591 was absolutely, positively brilliant and inspired!!! The story was absolutely the best, most logical answer to all the questions resulting from the revised DC Universe.

"Past Imperfect" hit me like Francis Coppola's "diamond bullet through the forehead" (in "Apocalypse Now"). We now have the solution to how the Legion could have based themselves on Superboy when we now know Clark "never" had a career as Superboy. The best part is, with all of this being just an outlandishly clever plot by the Time Trapper, it leaves intact all those old Superboy stories as well as DC's new taboo against parallel universes. It's credible, also, that the Legionnaires could have been victims of inaccurate history. I mean, how much do we really know about what actually went on in 987 AD, today?

The absolute best part for me, however, is that not only does the "pocket universe" leave all those Superboy stories intact, it goes so far as to explain the naivete of those stories: page 15, panels 3 & 4—"This doesn't even look like Smallville. It looks like an idealized version of a typical small town." And page 15, panel 1—"I find myself envying Superboy in some ways. It would have been fun to have a super-pet while I was growing up." Your solution means that literally hundreds of comics in my collection are still valid, if only as a part of a plot by the Time Trapper. For that I'm more grateful than you know. (I absolutely hate the way a lot of my comics have been invalidated by the retroactive continuity!)

John O. Gerdes, Esq.
Box 343
Collinsville, IL 62234

* * * * *

Dear Sirs:

"Past Imperfect" (ACTION #591) was a brilliant, well conceived tale. Due to the fact that it gave us one last look at the "Kal-El" of the '60s and '70s, the story might have been more aptly entitled "Changing of the Guard." This tale gave the reader a delightful stroll, however briefly, through the idyllic town of Smallville and allowed the reader to "rub shoulders" with the "old" Pete Ross and the elderly Ma and Pa Kent of yesteryear. It also presented us with a final, fascinating look at the Canine of Tomorrow. I believe that my favorite aspect of the story was the fact that it was not a "big lie," (a la CAPTAIN ATOM) a vision of what once had been, (such as Shazam's vision in SHAZAM: THE NEW BEGINNING #1) or an imaginary story. Instead, it was the result of a clever plot device that not only allowed this post-Crisis anomaly, but also helped to explain the true origin of the LSH. (I presume that the original Superboy that the Legionnaires wanted to meet was actually the product of centuries of exaggeration towards Superman's legend, developed in the same way as our myth about young George Washington and the Cherry Tree.)

Another intriguing aspect of this story was the constant comparison and contrast between the two Kryptonians, results of completely divergent evolutionary paths. Superboy, the product of a manipulated world, could easily outrace light, (contrary to Einstein's ideas) could survive the searing heat found on the surface of a yellow star, and at times could move an entire planet with his bare hands (I always wondered why such power didn't force him to go through the planet instead of allowing him to push it). On the other hand, the "real" Superman, the product of a natural evolution, seems to fit within the laws of nature and yet is still endowed with "powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men." Other enjoyable contrasts between the two included Krypto and the nature of the "real" Superman's invulnerability, or as Krypto would think, "His cape...!! It's tearing...!!"

Finally, I loved the way that the modern Man of Steel handled the various, often downright silly varieties of pre-Crisis Kryptonite. Finally, an end to the "Superman + Red Kryptonite = Ant-headed Kryptonian" stories!

The ending of the story was a touching representation of the Clark that I grew up with. "The only way I could save the Legion ... without sacrificing everyone I've ever loved ... [was] if Superman could only defeat me in battle." That line impressed me as an expression of compliance for a changing-of-the-guard, as though the now defunct "Kal-El" of yesteryear was formally passing the mantle of his very existence to the modern version of the character.

I suppose that Superboy and his "pocket universe" will be destroyed soon; they almost have to be to allow the post-Crisis Universe to remain ordered and sensible. I accept Superboy's farewell with mixed emotions. It's like a king watching his most trusted Captain-of-the-Guards retire, knowing that he is losing a friend but at the same time is gaining a younger, perhaps more capable guard. Again, thank you for one last stroll through the "old" Smallville, one last chat with the "old" Kents, and one last glimpse of the Teen of Tomorrow.

Daniel Smith
5435 Plumtree
San Antonio, TX 78242

* * * * *

Ladies and Gentlemen

Bravo! ACTION #591 was wonderful! I had been slightly disappointed by SUPERMAN #8 because it really didn't advance the story much at all. I felt it was purely a recap for those that didn't have access to the baxter LEGION #37, and didn't want to wait for the reprint to read chapter one of the "Superman vs. Superboy" storyline. Of course, the motives were altruistic (sparing otherwise frustrated readers), so all is forgiven, especially after Chapter Three.

My God, it all fits as if the Superboy continuity had been created for this story—and that's the best compliment that I can pay to the geniuses who put this four-parter together. The Time Trapper's "pocket universe" is the perfect place to put all the stories that don't quite fit into post-Crisis continuity or pre-Byrne Superman lore, but were too good to be forgotten.

Please let me be among the first to apologize for any previous misgivings I may have had. Now that the "big picture" has unfolded, Byrne has been completely vindicated of the deaths of Kara, Krypto, and the bottled city of Kandor. In fact, the scene with Krypto losing his powers (and thought balloons) brought me closer to tears than "Who is Donna Troy?" The handling of this scene, and the entire story for that matter, should finally dispel the notion that Byrne never cared for these characters or aspects of the Superman mythos. He grew up with these stories just like I did, and this story was a fitting tribute to those stories and their creators. I'm completely won over. I just wonder what the final fate of the "pocket universe" will be. I've a feeling that reading LEGION #38 will be like attending a funeral. There's only two choices, really. The universe will be destroyed/uncreated, or it will be relegated to limbo/another dimension. As the JSA suffered the latter, I'm afraid the conclusions I jump to are very bleak, indeed.

Well, just like after a real death, the survivors (readers) will have to pick up

the pieces and go on. I guess it's just hard to let go of an era.

Bob Pivarnik
150 Prospect Dr.
Stratford, CT 06497

*****

Dear DC:

"What the...?? A flying dog?? With a cape??"

Oh, my! I enjoyed that comment on page 13 of ACTION COMICS #591 so much, I laughed out loud! A flying dog with a cape, indeed! If anything, this exploration of the continuities makes me glad after all for the big change last year. But, hey, since you're doing this four-parter anyway, I might as well enjoy it, right?

I do admit, there was some nostalgia to this story. It reminded me of my early days of my comic reading, and also let me see again one of my favorite childhood stars, Superboy. When I was a child, I wanted so much to be Batman when I *grew up*. But when I was a *child*, I wanted to be Superboy!

Well, I never was Superboy, and in today's DC continuity, neither was Superman! So what's the Boy of Steel doing causing so much trouble to our shocked, and maybe a little bit of confusion to some of your readers? Good question! Can't wait until I read the answer in LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #38.

I do appreciate that you have at least made the effort to explain what is now an anachronism. But, I wonder if you've bit off more than you could chew. For instance, I'm somewhat perplexed concerning the Time Trapper's position during and after the CRISIS OF INFINITE EARTHS. Was he above the effects of the CRISIS, or was the realm in which he exists changed too?

Anyway, and if nothing else, you've provided a very fascinating mini-series within the three Superman titles. In fact, since John began in ACTION COMICS, it has been the most controversial, complex, complicated, topic-related comic magazine to come out in a long time. Yep, you're doing a good job.

Chris Khalaf
5126 Georgi Lane
Houston, TX 77092

The way we have it figured, Chris, the Time Trapper operates outside *normal dimensionality, so he kind of "side-stepped" the entire CRISIS.*

*****

Dear Mr. Byrne:

Before I picked up a copy of the MAN OF STEEL #1 comics meant nothing to me. Now I'm hooked, and with DC putting out so many good titles I'll be collecting for a long time.

ACTION #591 was excellent, and it gave us a nice look at Krypto the Superdog and Superboy. It was also a clever way to show how there could be a Legion of Super-Heroes without a Superboy.

Andy Hershberger
1023 Shreve Ct.
Crofton, MD 21114

*****

Dear Mike and Andy:

The "pocket universe" built by the Time Trapper to contain the last son of Krypton is acceptable to me! I liked it. I wonder. Has the Time Trapper engineered any other pocket universes while he's been hanging out (for eternities) at the end of time?

The story was fun, nostalgic, exciting and action-packed. Krypto sure came back in and out of the DC Universe fast!

The letter column was fun, too. Mike and Andy ... do you guys *like* your jobs? Isn't there a law against that in the U.S.?

Charlie Harris
2657 N. Mountain
Tucson, AZ 85719

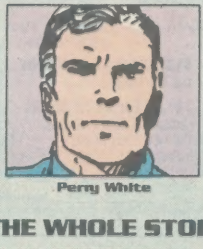
If liking our jobs is a crime... we plead guilty!!!

*****

NEXT ISSUE: Here's what you have to do before you get here next month, gang. Read MILLENNIUM #2 (borrow a friend's copy if you have to), then read SUPERMAN #13, after that look at ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #438, then—and only then—pick up ACTION COMICS #596! It's a three way cross-over flowing out of MILLENNIUM #1 and the Superman Legend will never be the same! And one of DC's hottest stars will be along for the ride as well next month—THE SPECTRE! So be here for SUPERMAN #14, by John Byrne and Keith Williams! See ya then, troops!

ONE OF THESE PEOPLE HAS WAITED 1000 YEARS TO BETRAY US!

Lana Lang



Perry White

Lois Lane

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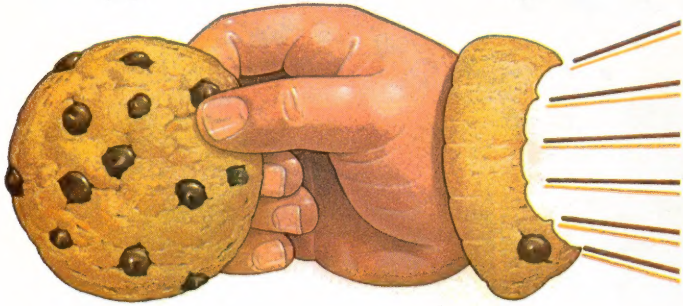

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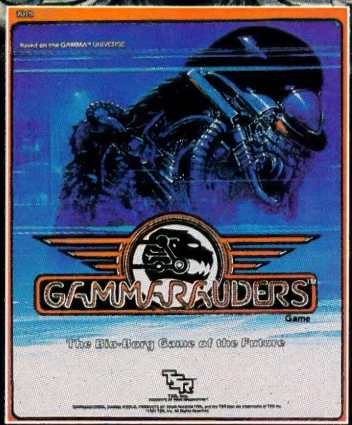
OLD PROF. WORBAS CREATION HAS FALLEN INTO THE WRONG HANDS



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